



McLane, Graf,  
Raulerson & Middleton  
Professional Association

900 Elm Street P.O. Box 326 Manchester, NH 03105-0326  
Tel: 603.625.6464 Fax: 603.625.5650 www.mclane.com

DT 06-067  
MANCHESTER  
CONCORD  
PORTSMOUTH  
WOBURN, MA

SARAH B. KNOWLTON  
Direct Dial: (603) 334-6928  
Email: sarah.knowlton@mclane.com  
Licensed in NH

September 8, 2008

**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

Eileen Fox, Clerk  
New Hampshire Supreme Court  
One Charles Doe Drive  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: **Verizon New England, Inc. d/b/a Verizon New Hampshire and Northern  
New England Telephone Operations LLC d/b/a FairPoint Communications -  
NNE**

Dear Ms. Fox:

Enclosed for filing please find an original and 8 copies of an Appeal by Petition Pursuant to RSA 541:6 filed on behalf of Verizon New England Inc. d/b/a Verizon New Hampshire and Northern New England Telephone Operations LLC d/b/a FairPoint Communications – NNE. The filing fee in the amount of \$175 is enclosed.

Also enclosed for filing please find an original and seven copies of a Motion for Admission *Pro Hac Vice* of Visiting Attorneys Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 33 along with two checks each in the amount of \$225.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Sarah B. Knowlton

Enclosures

cc: Parties of Record  
Kelly A. Ayotte, Attorney General  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
Alexander W. Moore, Esq.  
Henry Weissman, Esq.  
Patrick McHugh, Esq.

Complaint of Freedom Ring  
Communications, LLC d/b/a BayRing  
Communications Against Verizon New  
Hampshire Regarding Access Charges

Verizon New Hampshire ("Verizon" or "the Company") hereby moves the Commission for an Order staying the commencement of Phase II of the proceeding in this docket pending determination of Verizon and FairPoint's appeal of the Commission's decision in Phase I of this docket to the New Hampshire Supreme Court, filed on September 8, 2008, in the interests of efficiency and administrative economy. In further support of this motion, Verizon states as follows:

1. On November 29, 2006, the Commission issued Order No. 24,705, bifurcating the proceedings in the above-captioned docket into two Phases, the first ("Phase I") determining the interpretation of the relevant tariffs and the second ("Phase II") determining to what extent, if any, reparations are due based on the complaint filed by BayRing.
2. On March 21, 2008, the Commission issued Order No. 24,837, setting forth its interpretation of Verizon's wholesale tariff and ordering Verizon to cease the billing of carrier common line charges for calls that do not involve a Verizon customer as the end-user or a

Verizon-provided local loop. Verizon moved for rehearing of Order No. 24,837, which motion the Commission denied by Order No. 24,886, issued August 8, 2008.

3. In its order on rehearing, the Commission scheduled a pre-hearing conference for October 1, 2008<sup>1</sup> to establish procedures for the conduct of Phase II of this proceeding.

4. On September 8, 2008, Verizon and FairPoint filed an appeal of Order No. 24,837 with the New Hampshire Supreme Court pursuant to RSA 541:6.

5. Verizon requests that the Commission stay Phase II and the October 1, 2008 pre-hearing conference pending the resolution of its appeal to the Supreme Court in the interests of justice and administrative efficiency.

6. During Phase II, the Commission will be determining the extent of any reparations owed to BayRing and other competitive local exchange carriers. This will likely involve extensive discovery, technical sessions and ultimately, hearings to determine the amounts due under Order 24,837. To embark on Phase II proceedings in the face of the appeal would cause irreparable harm not only to Verizon, but to all parties involved as well as the Commission, given the substantial amount of resources that will be required by that proceeding. *See Union Fidelity Life Ins. Co. v. Whaland*, 114 N.H. 549, 550 (1974). Those substantial resources will have been wasted should Verizon prevail in its appeal.

7. There is no compelling reason to undertake Phase II while the Supreme Court appeal is pending. A stay of the Phase II proceedings pending the resolution of Verizon's appeal will not prejudice the public interest or the interest of the Petitioner or intervenors in this case.

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<sup>1</sup> Sprint Communications has requested that the October 1, 2008 prehearing conference be rescheduled, to which Verizon has not objected. However, Verizon seeks a stay of the prehearing conference regardless of when it is scheduled so long as the Company's appeal is pending.

*See id.* In fact, staying Phase II will benefit all parties and the Commission, by preserving their scarce resources to litigate Phase II only if truly necessary.

8. The Commission has the power to grant such a stay pending a party's appeal to the Supreme Court, and has not hesitated to do so in the past. *See e.g., Granite State Elec. Co.*, 64 NH PUC 390 (1979)(granting stay until decision rendered by New Hampshire Supreme Court); *Concord Elec. Co.*, 69 NH PUC 159 (1984); *cf. In re Statewide Electric Utility Restructuring Plan*, 82 NH PUC 280 (1997) (granting stay of implementation of order pending rehearing pursuant to RSA 541:3). Under the circumstances described above, there is no question that a stay of the Phase II proceeding benefits all parties involved as well as the Commission, and will ensure that there are no unnecessary expenditure of assets, time and resources going forward.

9. For these reasons, Verizon requests that the Commission grant this motion for stay effective immediately.

WHEREFORE, Verizon respectfully requests that the Commission:

- A. Grant this motion to stay the Phase II proceedings pending the resolution of Verizon and FairPoint's appeal of Order No. 24, 837 to the New Hampshire Supreme Court; and
- B. Grant such other and further relief as the Commission deems necessary and just.

Respectfully submitted,


VERIZON NEW HAMPSHIRE

By its Attorneys,

McLANE, GRAF, RAULERSON & MIDDLETON,  
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Date: September 8, 2008

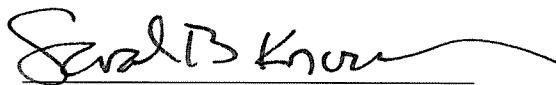
By:

  
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Sarah B. Knowlton  
100 Market Street, P.O. Box 459  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03802  
Telephone (603) 334-6928

Alexander W. Moore, Esquire  
Verizon New England Inc.  
d/b/a Verizon New Hampshire  
185 Franklin Street  
Boston, MA 02110-1585

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on September 8, 2008, a copy of the foregoing Motion has been forwarded to the parties listed on the Commission's service list in this docket.

  
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Sarah B. Knowlton